

Starting a Dairy in Missouri



A resource guide to help potential new dairy producers in Missouri understand the steps necessary to begin a dairy in the state

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This guide was developed to help potential new dairy producers in Missouri understand the steps necessary to begin a dairy in the state. It is a step by step guide to information sources and to the regulatory agencies that will need to be contacted before construction begins in order to obtain the proper approvals and permits to eventually ship milk.

Research Dairy Markets

The first consideration in developing a new dairy in Missouri is to investigate potential markets for your milk. Dairy marketing cooperatives will market producer milk in most areas of Missouri. However, those areas of Missouri outside of existing dairy clusters may have to pay extra for hauling their milk to markets or a market may not even exist. The dairy should evaluate market conditions to seek the most profitable and secure choice for their milk marketing. Most dairy marketing cooperatives also have fieldmen who can help guide new dairy producers through the permitting and approval process. Because these coop fieldmen can facilitate the startup process, they should be brought into the planning as early as possible. If you are considering buying a property that has been a dairy farm or still is, be sure to visit with a milk inspector or dairy plant field person regarding suitability of existing milk parlor before purchasing the property. Some dairy milking parlors may require considerable remodeling before qualifying to market Grade A milk under a new permit.

Market Outlet for Missouri Dairy Farmers

Central Equity Milk Cooperative, Inc. Mountain Grove, MO

- Phone: (417) 719-4225
- Fax: (417) 719-4244
- Coverage: SW Missouri
- Grade A, manufacturing grade, and organic milk

Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) Kansas City, MO

www.dfamilk.com

- Phone: (816) 801-6455
(800) 279-9122
- E-mail: webmail@dfamilk.com
- Coverage: Missouri
- Grade A milk in Missouri; and manufacturing grade milk in certain areas

Farmers All Natural Creamery Wellman, IA

www.farmersallnaturalcreamery.com

- Phone: (319) 646-2004
- Fax: (319) 646-6836
- Coverage: N Missouri
- Organic milk

Organic Valley La Farge, WI

www.organicvalley.coop/

- Contact: Joe Klein
- Phone: (608) 778-8811
- E-mail: joe.klein@organicvalley.coop
- Coverage: Missouri
- Organic milk

Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. Carlinville, IL

www.prairiefarmsdairy.com

- Phone: (217) 854-2547
- E-mail: icebox@prairiefarms.com
- Coverage: E Missouri
- Grade A milk

Consult with University of Missouri

University of Missouri Extension has state or regional specialists located in every county in the state. Specifically, specialists that would be the most helpful to contact would be the dairy specialists, livestock specialists or agricultural business specialists.

These specialists can be used to obtain help in the following areas:

- Business planning and feasibility analysis
- Location and site evaluation
- Environmental impacts
- Other dairy production expertise
- Local infrastructure available to support a dairy business

Below is information to assist in contacting these specialists:

MU Dairy Team

<http://dairy.missouri.edu/contacts.htm>

MU Extension Employee Directory

<http://extension.missouri.edu/directory/Places.aspx>

Other resources that have been developed by the University of Missouri Extension include:

Missouri Dairy Resource Guide

<http://dairy.missouri.edu/>

Ag Site Assessment Tool

<http://agsite.missouri.edu/>

Missouri Dairy Models

<http://dairy.missouri.edu/dairylinks/models.htm>

Missouri Dairy Business Opportunities

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/dairylink/opportunities/>

Missouri Climate Center

<http://climate.missouri.edu/>

By-Products

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/byprod/>

Missouri Land Survey

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/mgt/landsurv/>

Contact State Inspection Agencies and Local Permitting Authorities

Missouri State Milk Board

<http://agriculture.mo.gov/animals/milk/>

The 12-member board administers the state's Grade A and manufacturing grade milk sanitation programs. The board administers milk inspection relating to Grade A milk and milk supplies to assure uniformity of procedures and interpretation of milk inspection regulations. Developing an early relationship with the local milk inspector who works for the Missouri State Milk Board will help the dairy producer and the state milk board understand building plans, potential changes needed and inspection processes. Contact the Missouri State Milk Board for the phone number of milk inspector covering your area:

Gene Wiseman, Missouri State Milk Board Executive Secretary

Phone: (573) 751-3830

E-mail: Gene.Wiseman@mda.mo.gov

The Missouri State Milk Board has developed an informational guide for the construction and reconstruction of milk facilities in the state of Missouri. The Informational Guide for Construction and Reconstruction of Milking Facilities can be downloaded at <http://agriculture.mo.gov/animals/milk/pdf/constructionguidelines.pdf>.

Regulations adopted by the Missouri State Milk Board can be found on their website:

<http://agriculture.mo.gov/animals/milk/>

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/cafo/>

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is in charge of protecting water quality throughout the state for animal feeding operations (AFO) and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). Depending on the size and type of dairy operation, various permits may be needed to construct and operate a dairy. Generally, dairy operations with less than 700 cows do not need to obtain a construction or operating permit since they do not meet the definition of a CAFO.

Permitting of CAFOs

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2351.pdf>

Guide to AFOs

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub915.pdf>

Local Permitting Authorities

County or township authorities may have certain rules and requirements that may pertain to constructing a new dairy operation. Generally, the county clerk's office is good place to contact and ask about any local restrictions. University of Missouri Extension maintains a web page that has listings of all known livestock restrictions in the state, but it is still advisable to contact each county to verify this information: <http://nmplanner.missouri.edu/regulations/mocountyrules/>

Submit Plans to Inspection Agencies and Local Authorities for Review

Missouri State Milk Board will need to review all plans and accept them to be granted a Grade A or manufacturing grade permit. Missouri Department of Natural Resources will need to review and accept permit applications if permits are needed for the dairy operation. If a county or township has a local ordinance or zoning restriction, plans may be needed for their review. These agencies will need sufficient time to review these materials so plan accordingly to your time line.

Sanitation Consultation from Milk Procuring Field Man and Inspection Agency

The Missouri State Milk Board has developed an informational guide for the construction and reconstruction of milk facilities in the state of Missouri. The Informational Guide for Construction and Reconstruction of Milking Facilities can be downloaded at the following web address: <http://agriculture.mo.gov/animals/milk/pdf/constructionguidelines.pdf>.

A milking time inspection is required for a Grade A permit for a new dairy or reapplication for a Grade A permit. A sample of a Grade A and manufacturing grade farm inspection report from the Missouri State Milk Board can be found on the following pages. Contact the Missouri State Milk board for contact information of the milk inspector covering your area (573-751-3830).